



The Florida Department of Health in Taylor County held its annual "Touch a Truck" community outreach event Saturday, March 23, at Rosehead Park. Children of all ages were able to explore a variety of vehicles and machinery, including first responder units and forestry tractors.

# Touch a Truck 2024

## TCSO used 1¢ tax to buy 42 vehicles in 4 years

### 1¢ SALES TAX

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thirds) share amounts to around \$2.5 million each year, which the county commission has mostly limited to spending on one-time capital purchases.

The lone exception is the county spends \$408,000 from its share of sales tax revenues each year to cover half of the cost of contracting with Century Ambulance to provide emergency medical services (EMS) to the entire county. The other half is paid for out of the county's general fund.

In addition, in recent years the county has earmarked 25% (approximately \$625,000) of its share of sales tax revenues to the Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) and another 25% (\$625,000) to Doctors' Memorial Hospital (DMH) for equipment purchases.

The money not spent each year is allowed to roll over.

County Clerk of Court Gary Knowles recently provided a report to the commission showing what the county's share of sales tax funds have been spent on in recent years.

"We collect about \$2.5 million on the one-cent sales tax each year," Knowles told the commission at its March 26 workshop. "Last year, it was actually \$2,542,709.97."

Knowles noted that while the county refers to the sales tax as the "small county surtax," the Florida Department

of Revenue (FDOR) calls it the "discretionary sales surtax."

"There is a misconception out there that we can just pass a sales tax and get the money from that," he said. "That's not the way it is."

Counties can levy a maximum surtax of 1.5 cents, and Taylor County is currently levying just one cent.

According to figures from the FDOR, out of Florida's 67 counties, Citrus and Collier counties are the only two that do not levy any discretionary sales surtax.

Of the rest, six counties levy 0.5 cent, while the majority (38 counties, including Taylor), levy one cent, and 21 counties levy the maximum 1.5 cents.

Among Taylor County's immediate neighbors, Dixie, Jefferson and Lafayette counties levy a one-cent surtax, while Madison levies a total of 1.5 cents.

Knowles also outlined what purchases have been made over the past four years utilizing sales tax revenues.

Generally, the county commission has used its portion -- the remaining 50% or approximately \$1.25 million -- to pay half of the cost of the EMS contract and make capital purchases for departments that, unlike the general fund, typically do not have large reserves.

According to the figures provided by Knowles, the county has used its portion as follows:

#### Fiscal Year 2020

- Revenue (FDOR) (\$412,667 spent)
  - MSTU Fund: Fire-Rescue Station 3 roof replacement (\$7,117); lease payment for fire truck (\$74,019); Fire-Rescue Station 1 air-conditioning system (\$14,797); extrication equipment (\$12,995) and concrete pad for Animal Control (\$1,957).
  - Solid Waste Fund: equipment lease payment (\$36,000) and containers/compactors (\$90,534).
  - Road and Bridge Fund: upgrade to fuel monitoring system (\$11,722) and lease payments for dump truck and motor grader (\$164,535).
- #### Fiscal Year 2021
- (\$646,741 spent)
- Century Ambulance EMS service (\$270,274).
  - MSTU Fund: Fire-Rescue Station 8 roof replacement (\$4,558); Fire-Rescue electric heater (\$2,049) and lease payment for fire truck (\$74,019).
  - Solid Waste Fund: equipment lease payoff (\$175,609) and lease payment (\$31,453).
  - Road and Bridge Fund: dump truck lease payment (\$26,867); loader lease payoff (\$150,046); truck (\$36,564); motor grader lease payment (\$100,901) and two pickup trucks (\$44,672).
- #### Fiscal Year 2022
- (\$716,864 spent)
- Century Ambulance radios (\$47,330); extrication tool (\$13,024); Fire-Rescue Station 1 generator (\$59,579) and final lease payment for fire truck (\$74,019).

- Solid Waste Fund: lease payment (\$31,453).
  - Road and Bridge Fund: boom axe (\$195,635); John Deere tractor (\$68,954); excavator with bucket (\$200,000) and lease payment (\$26,867).
- #### Fiscal Year 2023
- (\$194,099.74 spent)
- Century Ambulance (\$408,516).
  - MSTU Fund: fuel trailer (\$7,800).
  - Solid Waste Fund: welder (\$6,255); concrete slab at Carlton Cemetery Road roll-off site (\$10,239); lease payment (\$31,453); three solid waste containers (\$20,273) and fencing at Shady Grove roll-off site (\$20,035).
  - Road and Bridge Fund: broom attachment (\$9,200); two trucks (\$61,976) and lease payment (\$26,867).
- As for DMH, the county began allocating 25% of its total sales tax revenues to the local hospital in Fiscal Year 2020.
- Since that time, the hospital has spent \$99,293 in 2021 for surgical lights, touch screens and three dual-arm systems.
- In 2022, DMH used the revenues for: shoulder suspension towers (\$23,000), orthopedic power systems (\$74,977), nuclear medicine software (\$82,897), installing dual arm system (\$18,230); coagulation analyzer (\$30,000); ABG analyzer (\$12,000); surgical steam sterilizer (\$57,972); electrical work for sterilizer (\$4,409); and workstations/monitors (\$34,999).
- Last year, DMH purchased two Fortis support arms and three leg

- holders (\$30,196); analyzer, hematology system and software (\$40,128) and four casters (\$11,500).
- So far this year, the hospital has purchased medical surgical telemetry system with monitors (\$142,797) and three emergency room monitors, CO2 prods and wall mounts and central stations (\$89,943).
- As of Feb. 27, DMH's available sales tax revenues was \$1,732,600.
- However, the commission recently approved going out for bids on several large purchases, and at its meeting on Monday evening, awarded G.E. Healthcare with a \$207,850 contract for a Digital C-Arm project at DMH.
- As for the 25% allocated to the Taylor County Sheriff's Office, since Fiscal Year 2020 purchases have included:
- Fiscal Year 2020: quarterly payments for SmartCop software (\$27,732); annual payment for body screening (\$62,713); four Chevrolet Tahoes (\$165,005); a server (\$30,000); and eight Chevrolet Tahoes (\$343,002).
- Fiscal Year 2021: quarterly payments for SmartCop (\$28,328); annual payment for body screening (\$62,588); four Chevrolet Silverados (\$131,049); equipment for Chevrolet Silverados (\$24,209); one Chevrolet Silverado (\$41,300); four dispatch bundles (\$44,796); one Chevrolet Silverado (\$40,878); air-conditioning unit (\$6,800); annual payment for body

- cameras (\$990); equipment for Chevrolet Silverado (\$13,140).
  - Fiscal Year 2022: quarterly payments for SmartCop (\$28,953); Chevrolet Tahoe (\$35,306); Chevrolet Silverado (\$35,983); Chevrolet Silverado (\$35,983); equipment for two Chevrolet Silverados (\$12,442); four Chevrolet Tahoes/one Chevrolet Silverado (\$180,615); and lease payment for video cameras (\$11,760).
  - Fiscal Year 2023: equipment for four Chevrolet Tahoes (\$333,643); lease payment for video cameras (\$69,341); equipment for one Chevrolet Tahoe (\$9,640); installation of K9 system in Tahoe (\$12,225); six Chevrolet Tahoes/two Chevrolet Silverado trucks (\$339,728); server (\$28,370); lease payment for video cameras (\$11,760); 25 Tasers plus cartridges/stands (\$64,679); courthouse X-ray machine (\$26,885); one Chevrolet Tahoe/one Chevrolet Silverado truck (\$113,780); and five in-car systems with body cameras (\$88,923).
  - Fiscal Year 2024 (through March 19): equipment for Tahoe (\$7,228); equipment for Silverado (\$6,617); installation of two K9 systems (\$18,228); annual payment for body cameras (\$59,341); and six Chevrolet Silverado trucks (\$321,753).
- As of March 19, the TCSO's balance of available sales tax funds was \$45,665.

## Judge upholds Glover's request for more information

### DOE HEARING

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the probable cause for the complaint filed by the agency.

In the motion for a continuance, FLDE representatives stated that additional time was needed to gather the information requested by Glover and to make the agency representative (Director of Professional Standards Randy Kosec) available for deposition.

In the motion, the FLDE stated that Kosec would not be available for deposition until mid-June due to a previously approved leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave

Act (FMLA).

The motion also noted that Kosec was previously scheduled to be deposed March 19, but the deposition had been canceled by Glover. It has been rescheduled to be held during the period of June 17-21.

FLDE is seeking sanctions against Glover's teaching certification related to a sexual harassment scandal involving Glover and a member of the Taylor County School District's administrative staff, which led to Glover's abrupt resignation two years into his second four-year term.

The administrative hearing, originally set for

Jan. 23 and 24, was later rescheduled for April 12, 22-23, but is now slated for August.

In previous action, the administrative judge denied the state's request for a protective order regarding all of the topics sought for the deposition of the agency's representative -- except one.

Those topics include the FLDE's investigation and "ultimate determination of probable cause, as well as requesting that the agency identify all personnel who reviewed information or considered information in reaching a determination for probable cause."

Additionally, Glover sought information "related

to any comparators or similarly-situated educators who have faced discipline or sanction of their licensure."

Glover's team will also be able to delve into "an underlying investigation that is inextricably intertwined with the allegations against the respondent (Glover), and which was conducted by the petitioners (FLDE) into the complaining witness in this matter."

That underlying investigation "relates to alleged alcohol abuse by the complaining witness and felony criminal charges that were brought against her as a result of her alleged abuse of alcohol. They also

involved allegations of domestic violence, which the complaining witness pointed to as a trigger for her alleged felonious conduct and arrest. Accordingly, the information is relevant to the respondent's reaction to her arrest, and the reasonableness of any conditions he imposed on her continued employment with Taylor County," court documents stated.

The judge did grant the FLDE's request for protection regarding Glover's team seeking to depose "the person most knowledgeable regarding any range of sanctions that were considered to be imposed against the respondent's Florida

Educator's Certificate based upon prior precedent."

In his order, the judge agreed with the FLDE's argument that, "While sanctions imposed in cases similar to the instant (Glover's) case could be helpful in formulating such a recommendation, the information sought would not assist in that analysis."

The judge did grant Glover's petition to seek information regarding communication between the FLDE, the complaining witness and her spouse, as well as communications and information related to the complaining witness' attorney and the FLDE.

### LEGALS

#### (Continued from page 9)

for a Point of Beginning, thence from said Point of Beginning continue South 89°13'26" West, along the North boundary line of said Section 26, a distance of 1914.56 feet to a point in the centerline of an 80 foot wide Roadway, Drainage and Utility Easement (Rogers Springs Road), thence South 32°17'57" West, along said centerline, a distance of 17.30 feet to a point, thence South 10°19'26" West, along said centerline, a distance of 427.14 feet to a point, thence leaving the centerline of said easement, run North 89°03'29" East, a distance of 2006.24 feet to a point, thence North 00°46'34" West, a distance of 427.84 feet to the Point of Beginning.

SUBJECT to an 80 foot wide Roadway, Drainage and Utility Easement (Rogers Springs Road)

over and across the Westerly 40.0 feet thereof.

SUBJECT to a 15 foot wide utility easement over and across the Northerly 15 feet thereof.

SUBJECT to a 15 foot wide utility easement over and across the Easterly and Southerly 7.50 feet thereof. SUBJECT to a conservation easement, more particularly described on separate sheets. As Described in Taylor County Official Record 603 Page 931

Name in which assessed: Vann Lvangamath

Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 13th day of May, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

\*\* To participate in the bidding, you

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**TDA 24-005**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Sammie D or Donna G Simmons, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate, for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number 91

Year of Issuance 2017

Description of Property:

Parcel Number: R01766-532

Described as:

That part of OR 544 PG 308 lying North of County Road 14 and being in Section 23, Township 2 South, Range 7 East, Taylor County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of Section 23, Township 2 South, Range 7 East, Taylor County, Florida. Thence run South 88°54'10" East along the North line of the Northwest quarter of said Section 23 for a distance of 701.71 feet to a Point of Beginning; thence continue South 88°54'10" East along the same North line of said Section 23 for a distance of 381.66 feet; thence run South 01°10'25" West for a distance of 570.57 feet; thence run North 88°54'10" West for a distance of 381.66 feet; thence run North 01°10'25" East along the West line

of said Section 23 for a distance of 570.55 feet to a Point of Beginning. Said parcel containing 5.00 acres more or less. OR 599 PG 221

Name in which assessed: Taylor Gardenia, LLC

Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 13th day of May, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

\*\* To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. \*\*

Dated this 8th day of April, 2024

Signature: Gary Knowles

Clerk of Circuit Court

Taylor County, Florida

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the fictitious name statute, Chapter 20953 or Section 865.09, Florida of State, Corporation Division, Tallahassee, Florida, upon receipt of proof of publications of this notice the fictitious name, to-wit:

Jerri James Fine Art under which we/I will engage in business. /I we expect to engage in business in Madison County, Florida and our address is: 1797 NW Settlement Rd., Madison, FL 32340

The extent of ownership is: Jerri Taylor James 100 % ownership.